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UM receives grant to support future conservationists

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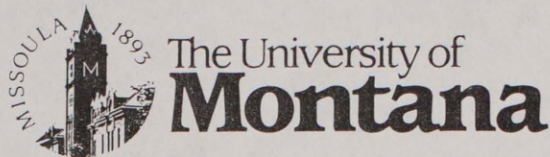
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NEWS RELEASE

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UM RECEIVES GRANT TO SUPPORT FUTURE CONSERVATIONISTS

MISSOULA—

The University of Montana has been awarded a grant from the Wyss Scholars Program for Conservation of the American West to support graduate students who are committed to careers as conservationists of western land.

The nearly \$300,000 grant will allow UM to select two Wyss Scholars each year for five years from master's level students in the University's Environmental Studies Program or College of Forestry and Conservation.

With this award, UM joins Yale University as the only institutions to offer the Wyss scholarship. UM will select its first two Wyss Scholars in 2006.

"Those of us at UM who work closely with students seeking careers in the conservation field are honored to receive this award," said Len Broberg, director of the University's Environmental Studies Program. "The award acknowledges The University of Montana's national prominence in conservation leadership education."

To become Wyss Scholars, students must be committed to working with a federal or state land management agency or for a nonprofit conservation group. The students will be selected on

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the basis of their leadership potential and commitment to furthering land conservation in the Intermountain West.

“The Wyss fellowship will be extremely valuable to enable us to financially support the education of future conservation leaders,” said UM Professor Jill Belsky, director of the University’s Bolle Center for People and Forests. “We are all thrilled to work with the Wyss Foundation.”

The Wyss Foundation is a private, charitable foundation dedicated to land conservation in the Intermountain West. Proposals to the foundation are accepted on an invited basis only.

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Local, state dailies